

Remarks

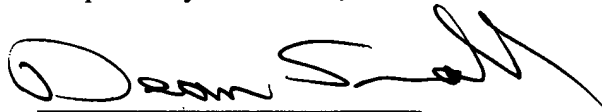
Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-16 were pending in this application, of which claims 3 and 5 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

It is believed that no excess claim fee is required as, previously, an excess claim fee was paid bringing the total independent claims to 4, while the initial filing fee included up to 20 total claims.

Initially, the examiner is thanked for indicating claims 3-4, 8-9, 11, and 13-16 to be either allowed or to contain allowable subject matter. The feature of claim 3 has been added to independent claim 1, while independent claim 14 has been amended to recite the features of claims 8 and 9 in the alternative. The above claim amendments are believed to moot the rejection of claims 1, 5, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Taguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,383,020).

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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